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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Committee on Election and Campaign Reform

AB481

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Good morning. I want to thank the chair and members of the Committee for hearing my testimony today.

While I was having local office hours in my district a town clerk had mentioned that they needed to train and certify a representative from the local high schools to be able to register students and faculty to vote at the high school campus. After speaking with other local clerks and both school districts in my district that were also unaware of this law, I began to look deeper into the situation.

According to the Government Accountability Board this is not a new law but one that was passed in 1976; Wisconsin State Statute 6.28 (2) mandating high schools to have a municipal clerk or certified high school staff available to register students and faculty to vote. Currently, this law is not being followed uniformly throughout the state.

At the age of 18 many feel like they are adults and want to be treated like adult. So why should we treat them any different than you or I? Students today have the options to print forms right off the internet, driving to their local clerk's office to register, or same day registration unlike their 1976 counterparts.

AB481 repeals this out-dated mandate. It will help provide efficiency, save resources, and save money for many of our local clerk's offices. Thank you once again for taking the time to listen to me.